

people out there who do not want their young people's lives wasted in the future needlessly.

Maybe these soldiers, these toy soldiers, it is okay to risk their lives because they do not mean much, but our young men and women, they do matter.

President Clinton, please do not veto this legislation.

WITH APOLOGIES TO DR. SEUSS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Montana [Mr. WILLIAMS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, during much of the debate on the defense bill just passed, I listened either here in the Chamber or watched it on television from my office and spent some time between debates composing a little doggerel.

With apologies to Dr. Seuss, I would like to share it with you:

On the eighth of November, Election Day last fall.

The voters decided to take a look over the wall.

At first, Democrats stood silent, but finally we said,

With a very sad shake of our collective head, "On this side of the wall we are all Dems, But on the far side of the wall live the them.

But the voters said it's high time we knew, What kind of things the them would do.

Even after 40 years, the wall isn't so high. Why, the voters can look the them square in the eye.

And when the them came close, the voters heard 'em say, "Star Wars, Star Wars, it's up, up and away."

And at that very instant, voters remembered the reason they had stayed on their own side of the wall season after season.

The them love to spend and spend, but only on weapons that skewer.

Not Head Start or Pell grants or highways or sewers.

So, on tiptoe the voters stand quizzically watching the them,

As the them dash about in their 100-day fit, So, on 101 they can at last sit.

And the voters note that the them look frightfully mean,

As they try to spend billions on their Star Wars machine.

Voters had walked to the wall with great vim and vigor,

Only to find the them as always with their hands on the trigger.

For 2 more years the voters will watch and the voters will wonder,

Why the them spend tax money that might blow the world all asunder.

At the end of the time, the voters will step back from the wall,

Hoping a little look didn't hurt much after all.

And then they will remember when all is said and done,

These are the very same them that scared the voters back in 1981.

□ 1510

FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS IMPACT AMATEUR SPORTS, LEGAL REFORM NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUNNING). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I read with great interest an editorial found in Monday's Wall Street Journal article by Creighton Hale.

Mr. Hale is the CEO of Little League Baseball and he made a very good case for the need for legal reform.

One example he gave was this:

Imagine the situation: The batter hits a pop fly to center, but your centerfielder is playing the position for the first time. He moved there because the regular kid has the flu. The pop fly hits him in the eye.

As the coach, what do you do?

Pull the infield in and play for the plate?

Call time and head for the pitcher's mound?

How about try calling a lawyer?

You see, in a real life case similar to the one just described, the centerfielder's parents filed suit against the coach who stationed their child under the ill-fated pop fly. They sought compensation for pain and suffering, as well as punitive damages.

In another case described by Mr. Hale was litigation that resulted from two boys colliding in the outfield.

They picked each other up—and then sued the coach.

Another player sued when a stray dog intruded on the field of play and bit him.

And in one of the most outrageous cases I have heard of a woman won a cash settlement when she was hit by a ball that a player failed to catch.

The irony here is that the player was her own daughter.

The Little League has seen its liability insurance skyrocket 1,000 percent over a 5-year period. From \$75 per league annually to \$795 per league.

We, in effect, have asked little league coaches to take on major league liability risk.

Our legal reform umbrella must cover civil defendants of all stripes whether it be the Little League team that plays in the park down the street or the large corporation that employs the little leaguer's parents.

Frivolous litigation has reached the point that we cannot even measure it with dollars anymore.

Already the special interests are mobilizing to stop any attempt to help the Little Leaguers and Girl Scouts.

George Bushnell, president of the American Bar Association, has resorted to name calling.

The rules of this body will not even allow me to repeat what he called congressional Members who would dare attempt legal reform of this nature.

I say we have struck a nerve.

We are not here to pander to the special interest within the legal community.

Rather, we are here to enact real legal reform for the American people.

And reform we shall have.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Ms. RIVERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. RIVERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE SO-CALLED PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

The SPEAKER per tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. TUCKER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the so-called Personal Responsibility Act.

For years now, Mr. Speaker, Democrats, Republicans, welfare recipients, and Americans on opposite ends of the political spectrum have all agreed on two things; No. 1: The welfare system is broken, and No. 2: We as Americans must change welfare as we know it.

This bill as I read it, Mr. Speaker, fails in several ways to address the problem.

First, the bill erroneously assumes that the problem with welfare is that these people just do not want to work.

The reality, however, is that 70 percent of those who receive welfare benefits are children. The remaining 30 percent are the mothers of these children and disabled persons.

Second, and most importantly—this body, as it has done in the past, is attempting to base new public policy on the same false premise—that these people just do not want to work! Therefore, to encourage them to work—cut them off.

The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that the problem with welfare is this body's total abdication of its responsibility to deal openly and forthrightly with the cause of welfare—the lack of a real job paying a livable wage.

If we did address this problem openly, Mr. Speaker, we would find that what